

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action of September 8, 2006. Claims 72-87 are pending in the application. Claims 72, 81, 88-89, 91, 94-95 and 97 are amended by this Response. No new matter is added by the present amendments. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Interview of November 16, 2006

Applicant thanks Examiner Pesin for granting a telephonic interview to Applicant's representative, MacLane C. Key, on November 16, 2006. Agreement was not reached, however Examiner Pesin seemed to agree that neither U.S. Patent No. 6,219,045 ("Leahy") nor U.S. Patent No. 5,923,737 ("Weishut") disclose resetting the agent parameter and setting the state to present if the agent parameter is not returned within a predetermined time period or displaying an image of the agent associated with a user of the electronic system.

Rejections

The Office Action rejected Claims 72-99 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leahy in view of Weishut. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Leahy discloses a three-dimensional graphical, multi-user, interactive virtual world system. A plurality of users can interact in the three-dimensional, computer-generated graphical space where each user executes a client process to view a virtual world from the perspective of that user. The virtual world shows avatars representing the other users who are neighbors of the user viewing the virtual world. In order that the view can be updated to reflect the motion of the remote user's avatars, motion information is transmitted to a central server which provides position updates to client processes for neighbors of the user at that client process. The client process also uses an environment database to determine which background objects to render as well as to limit the movement of the user's avatar.

However, as admitted by the Office Action, Leahy does not disclose or suggest setting a state of an agent in an electronic system to an absent state in response to sending the agent parameter from the electronic system or modifying the behavior of the agent in the electronic system as described in Claim 72. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Leahy does not disclose displaying an image associated with the agent at the electronic system or resetting the agent parameter and setting the state to present if the agent parameter is not returned within a predetermined time period as in Claim 72.

Weishut discloses a communication terminal for use in a communication system which includes a display unit having a display screen onto which call states of different terminals in the system are represented by means of icons of different sizes and shapes, depending on the current call state of the terminal itself and the call states of other terminals in the system, in a quasi three-dimensional communication scene so as to graphically represent and distinguish terminal users involved in a communication scenario. The displaying of the icons is such that a terminal user of the terminal perceives a substantial change of the communication scene upon call state changes of the terminal and other terminals in the system. Essentially, similar to Leahy, Weishut displays avatars of other users on a user's screen, and, like Leahy, the user does not see the user's own avatar.

It is respectfully submitted that Weishut does not disclose or suggest displaying, at an electronic system, an image associated with an agent associated with a user of the electronic system, modifying the behavior of the agent associated with the user in the electronic system, or resetting the agent parameter and setting the state to present if the agent parameter is not returned within a predetermined time period as in Claim 72.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 72 and its dependent claims are each patentably distinguished over Leahy in view of Weishut and are in condition for allowance. For similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 81 and its dependent claims are each patentably distinguished over Leahy in view of Weishut and are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BY 

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